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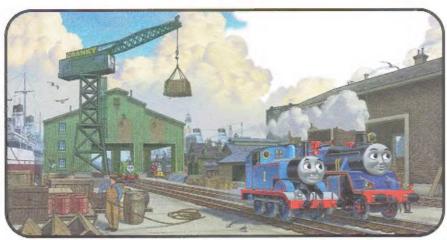
Will you please read it to me?

Thank you.









Illustrated by Tommy Stubbs

A Random House PICTUREBACK® Book Random House New York

Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends™

CREATED BY BRITT ALLCROFT

Based on The Railway Series by The Reverend W Awdry.

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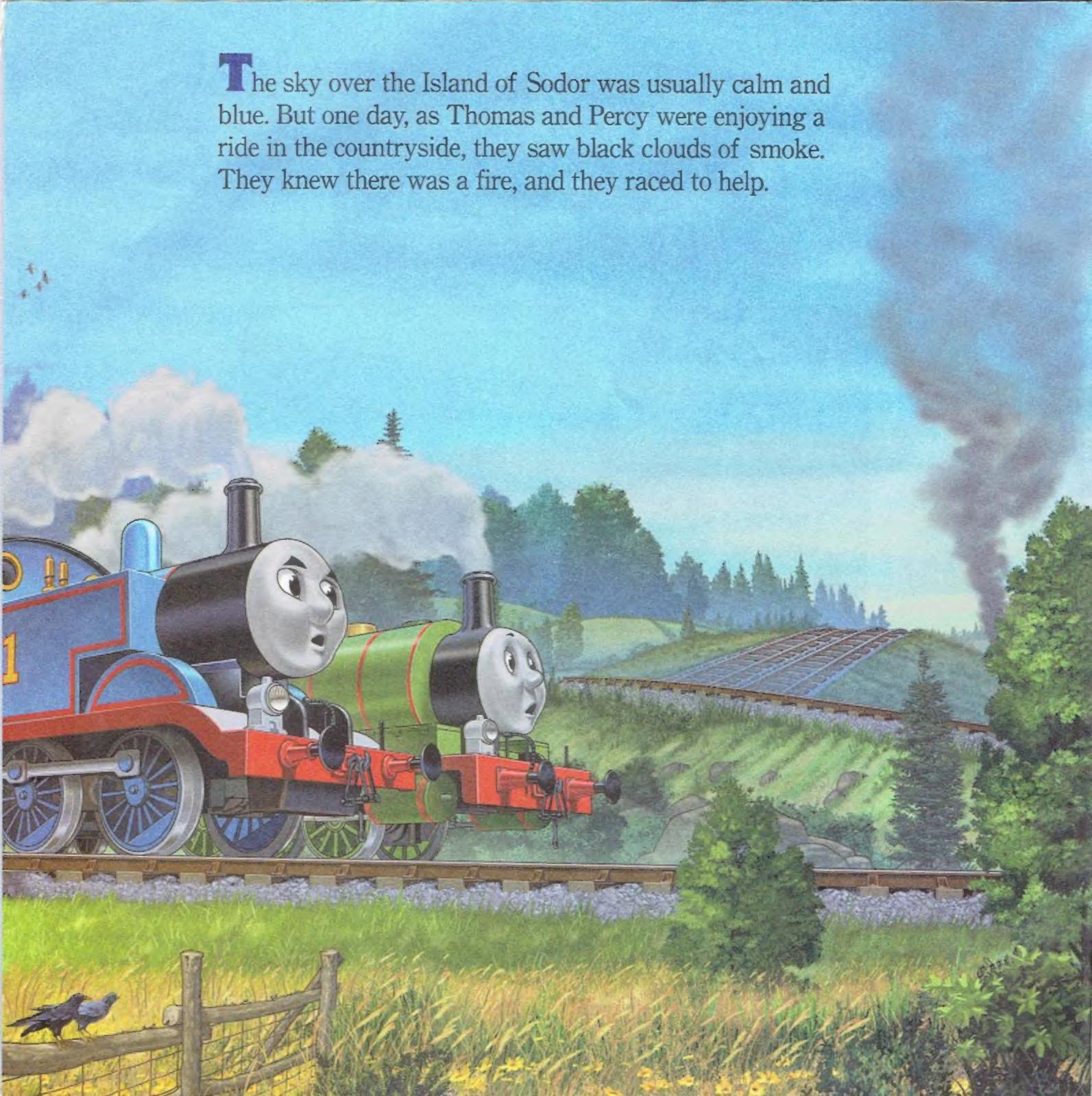
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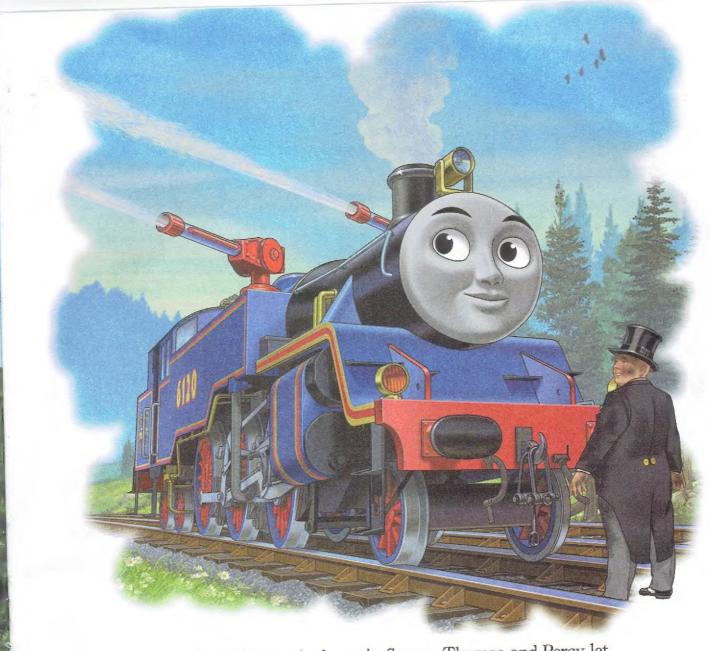
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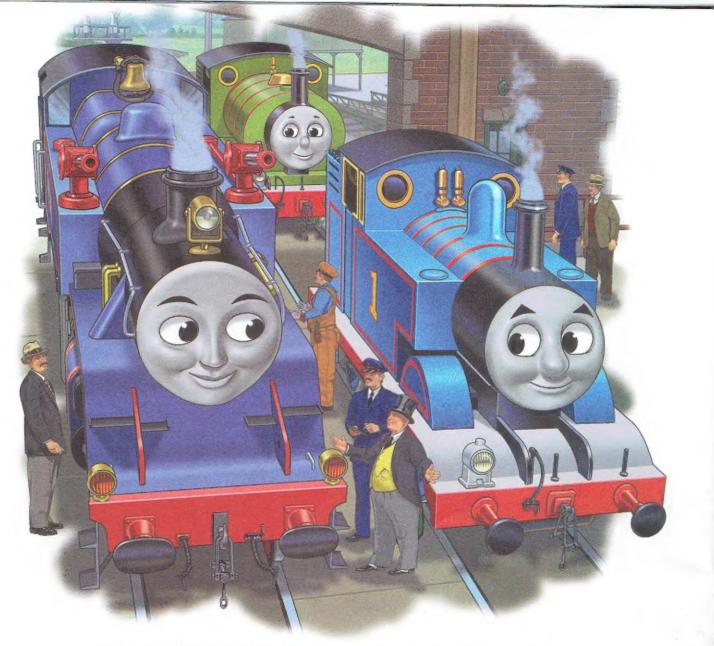
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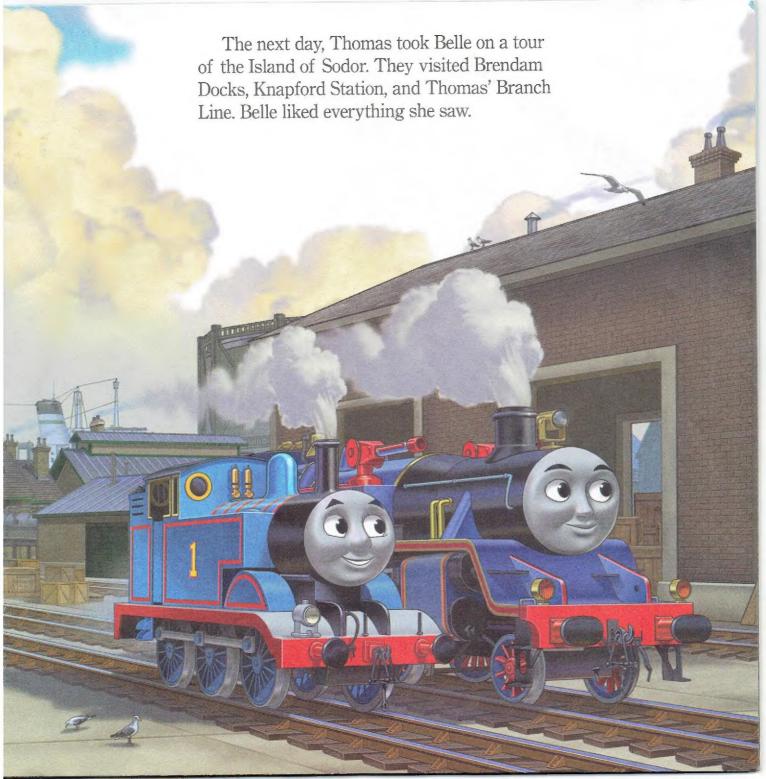


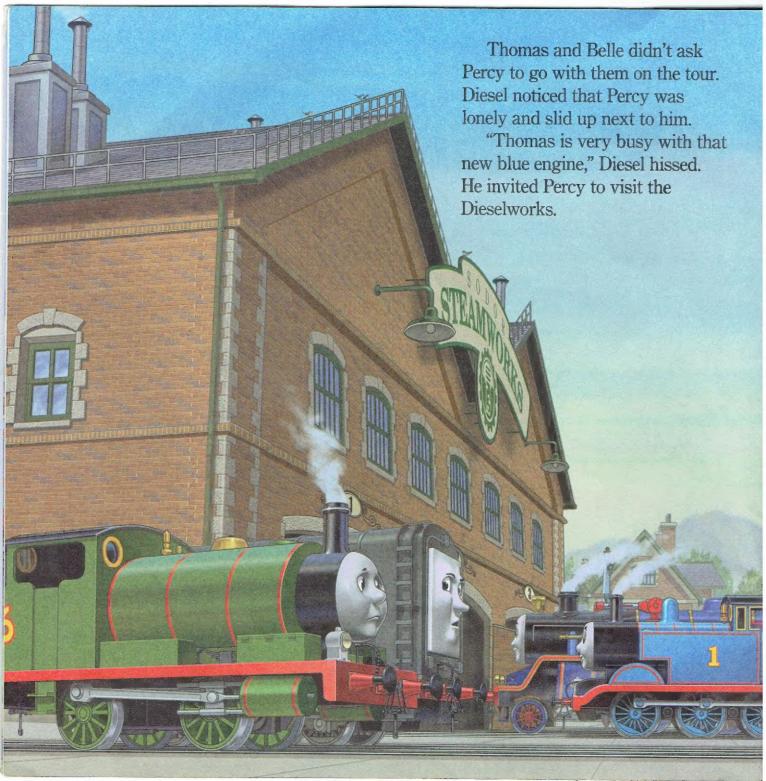


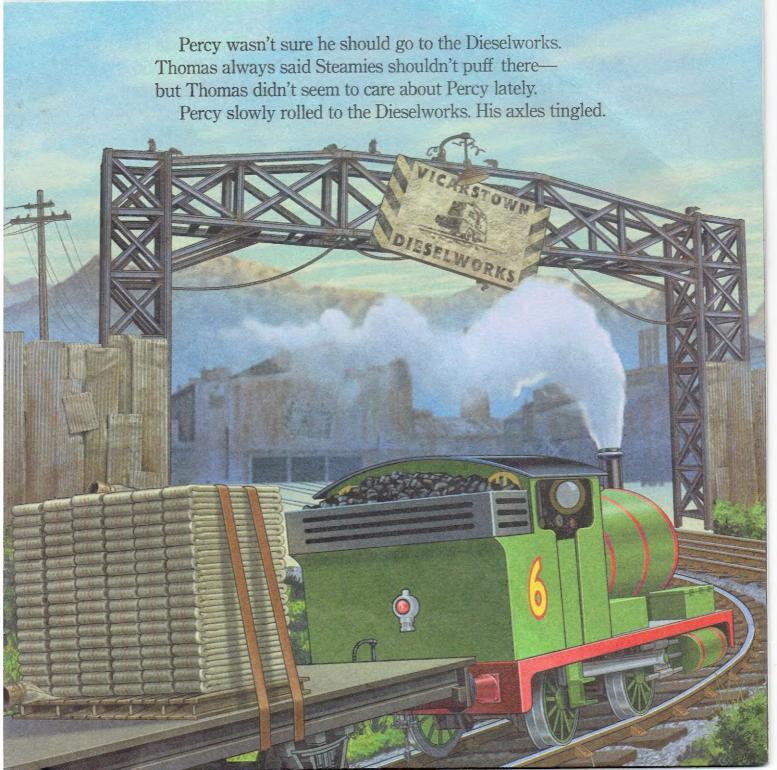
An old farm shed was in flames. Thomas and Percy let the farmhands take buckets of water from their tanks. Luckily, a new engine named Belle arrived. She could shoot water from her tanks. The flames fizzled and went out.



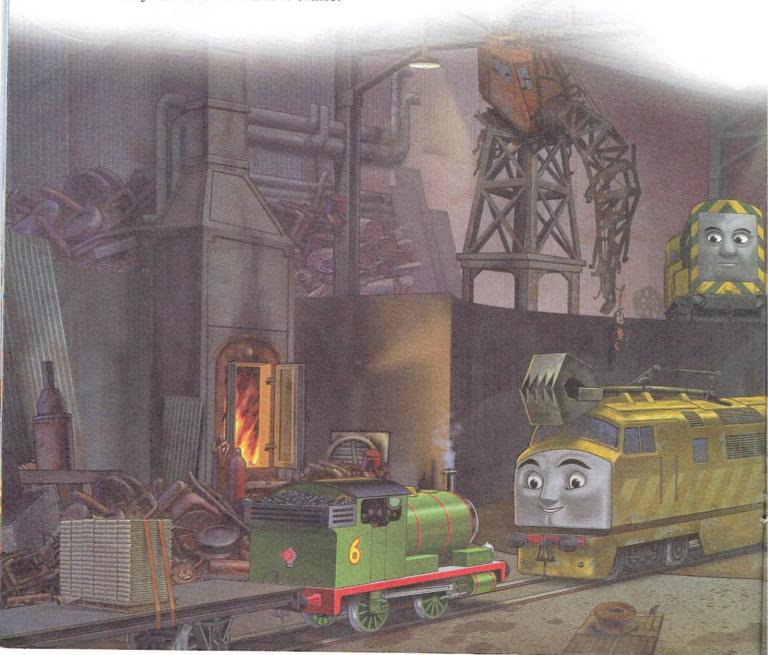
Everybody agreed that Belle was a Really Useful Engine. Belle was happy to help, but she knew Sodor needed a real fire engine. "You need Flynn the Fire Engine. He's a real hero!" she peeped. Sir Topham Hatt thought this was an excellent idea.







"Hello, Percy!" boomed Diesel 10. "What an honor. Please come in." The Dieselworks was dark, grimy, and a little scary, but the engines were all very nice, especially Den and Dart. They fixed the Diesels, but they didn't even have a crane!



"You should tell Sir Topham Hatt you need a new Dieselworks," puffed Percy.

"He doesn't listen to Diesels," said Diesel 10.

Percy had an idea. "I'll ask Thomas to tell Sir Topham Hatt.

He always listens to Thomas."

Diesel 10 smiled.



When Percy returned to the Steamworks, he saw that Flynn the Fire Engine had arrived. Everyone was impressed by Flynn because he was bold and red and shiny. Percy felt very unimportant indeed.

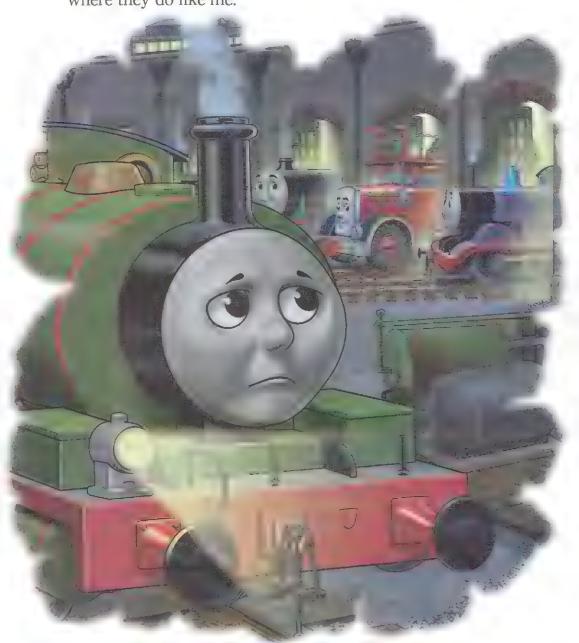




Only Kevin listened to Percy's story. Kevin couldn't believe the Dieselworks didn't have a crane.

"Kevin, if you were there, you'd be a hero," Percy puffed. Kevin liked the idea of being a hero very much.

That night, when Percy returned to Tidmouth Sheds, he saw something that made his boiler bubble—Flynn was in *his* berth! "If I'm not wanted here," Percy thought, "I'll go someplace where they do like me."





Percy found Kevin, and together they rolled to the Dieselworks. They stayed there all night—something no Steamie had ever done before.



Back at the Steamworks the next day, Percy told the steam engines where he had been. Everyone was shocked. Thomas' firebox fizzled.

Victor was angry that Kevin was still at the Dieselworks. He rattled off to tell Sir Topham Hatt. Percy and Thomas raced to the Dieselworks. Thomas said he would help them get a new building. But Diesel 10 wasn't interested.

"Since Victor isn't at the Steamworks, we're going to take it over—and we want you to lead us, Percy!"



Percy proudly led the Diesels to the Steamworks, but when they got there, no one listened to him.

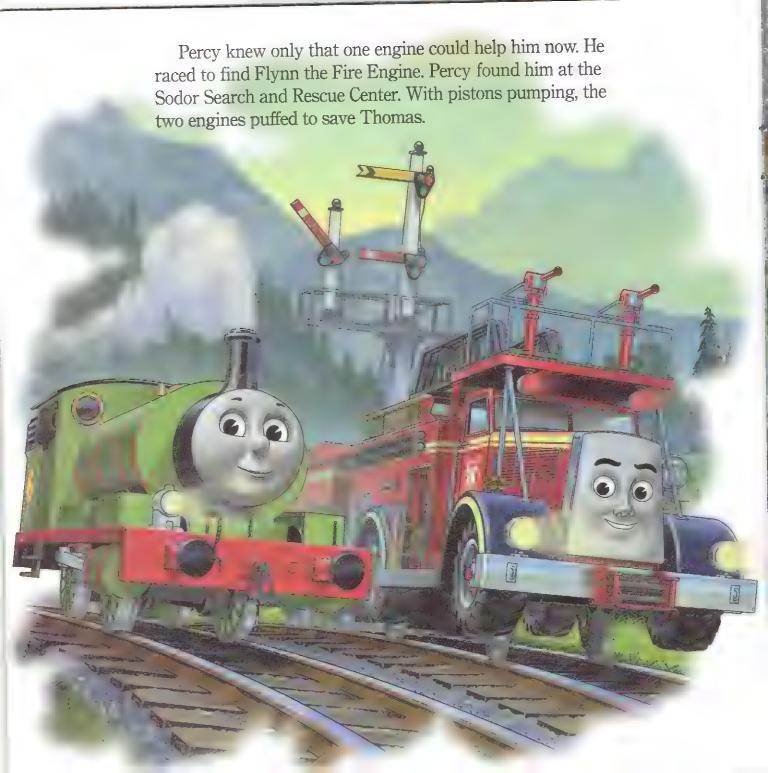
"The Steamworks is ours," roared Diesel 10. "And we're not giving it back!"

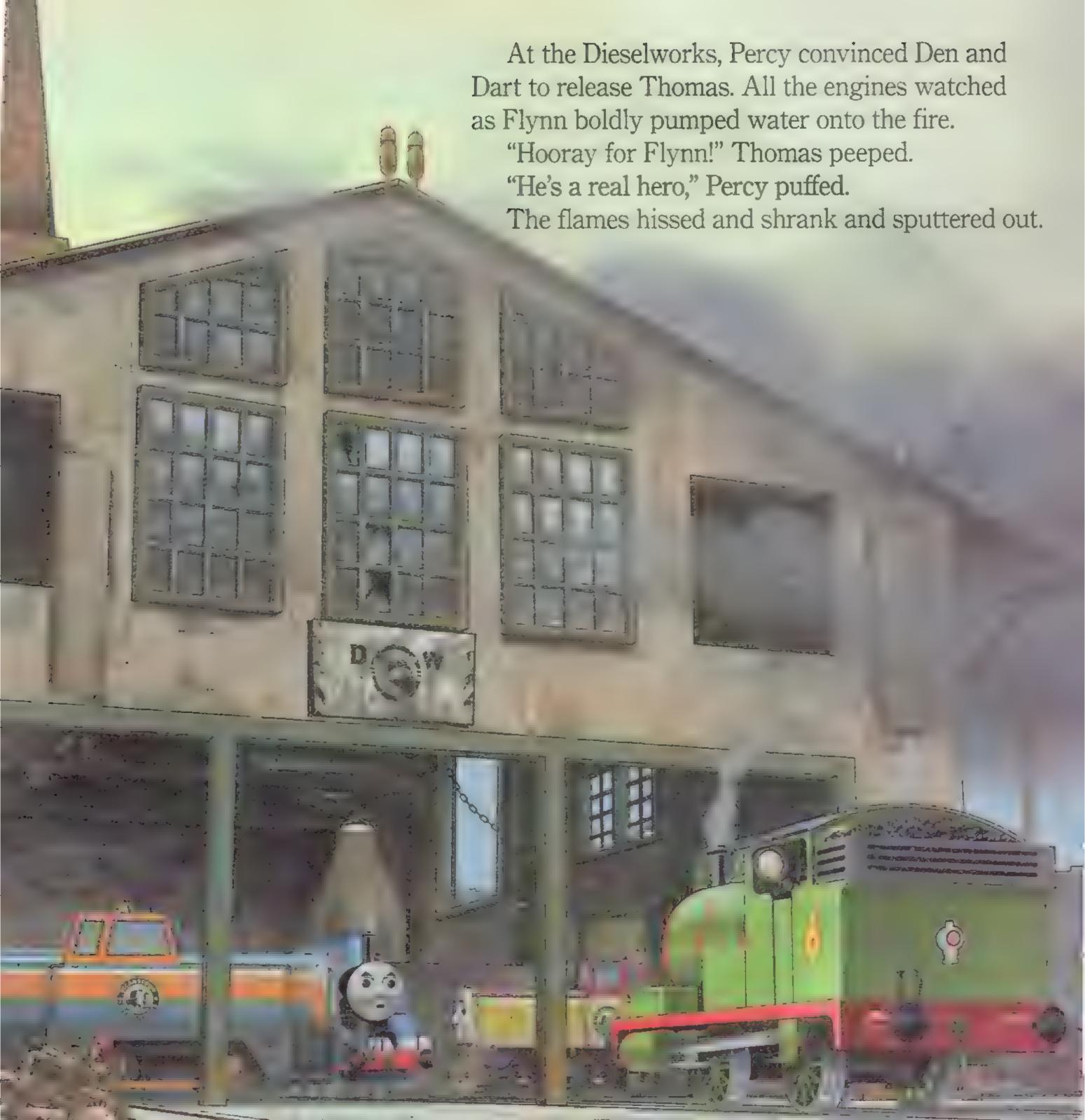
Worst of all, Diesel 10 said Thomas was being held prisoner at the Dieselworks.





Percy knew he'd made a terrible mistake. He quickly went back to the Dieselworks, where Den and Dart were holding Thomas. As Percy screeched to a stop, sparks from his wheels started a fire! Now he had to save Thomas *and* put out a fire!



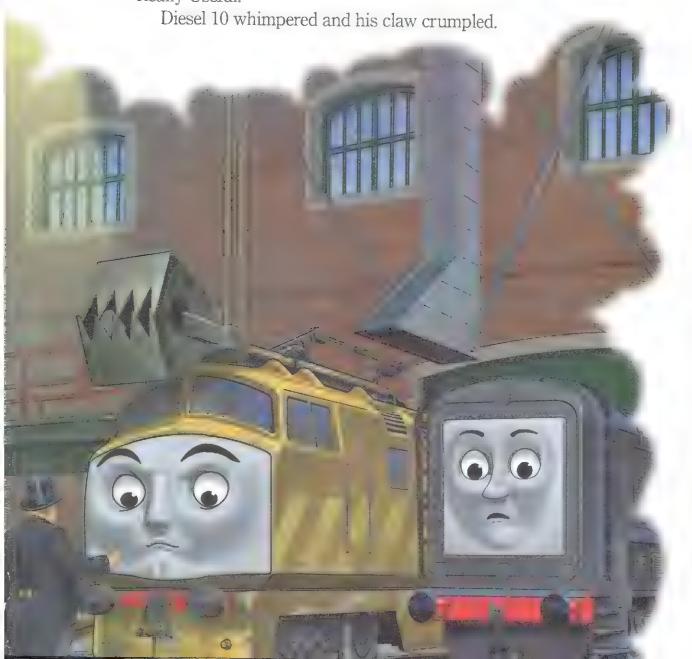


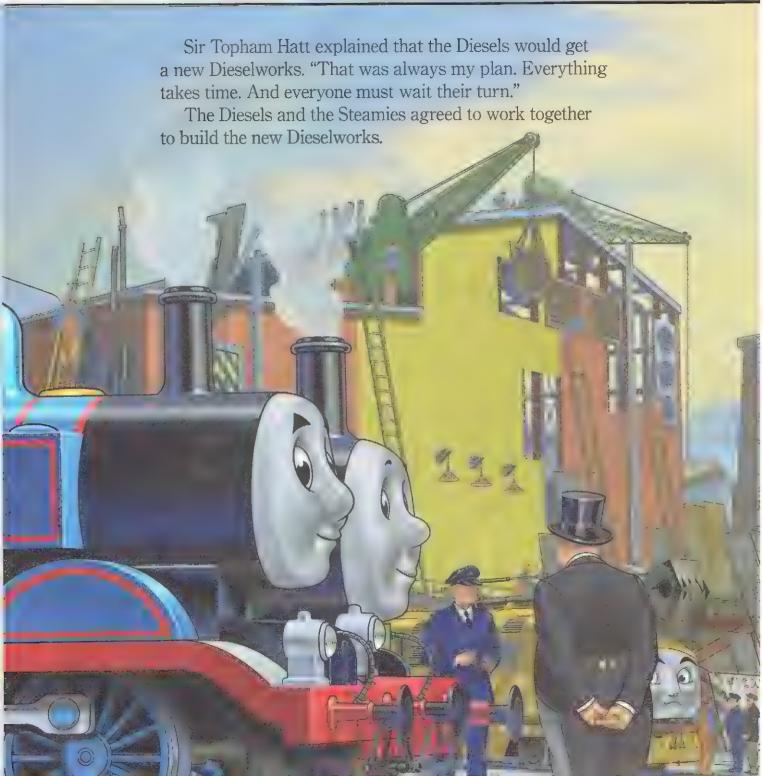
Thomas and Percy collected all the Steamies and hurried to save the Steamworks. The Diesels refused to leave.

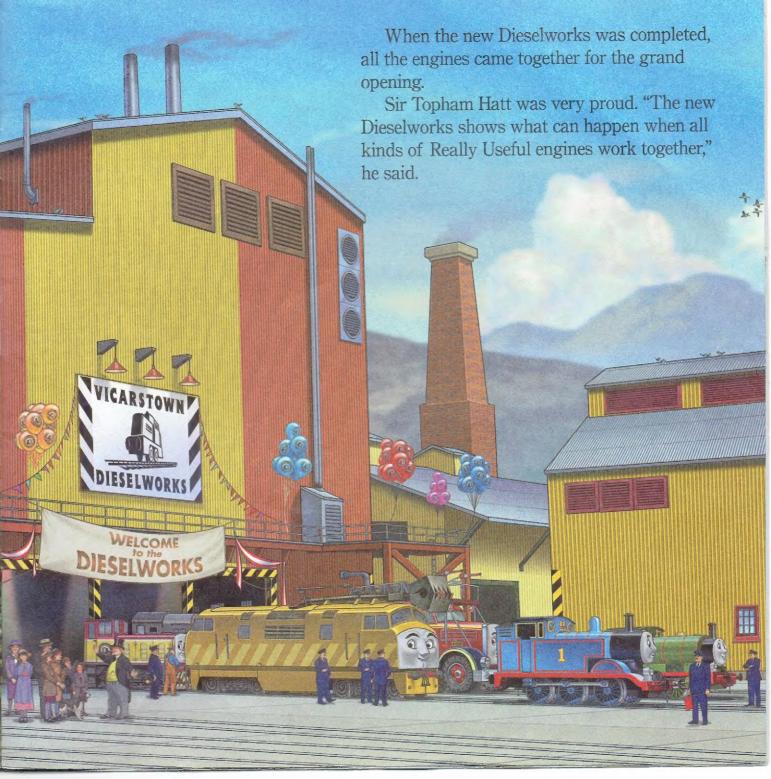
"Taking things and using trickery is wrong," Thomas peeped. "We can help you get a new Dieselworks, but you have to be fair with us."

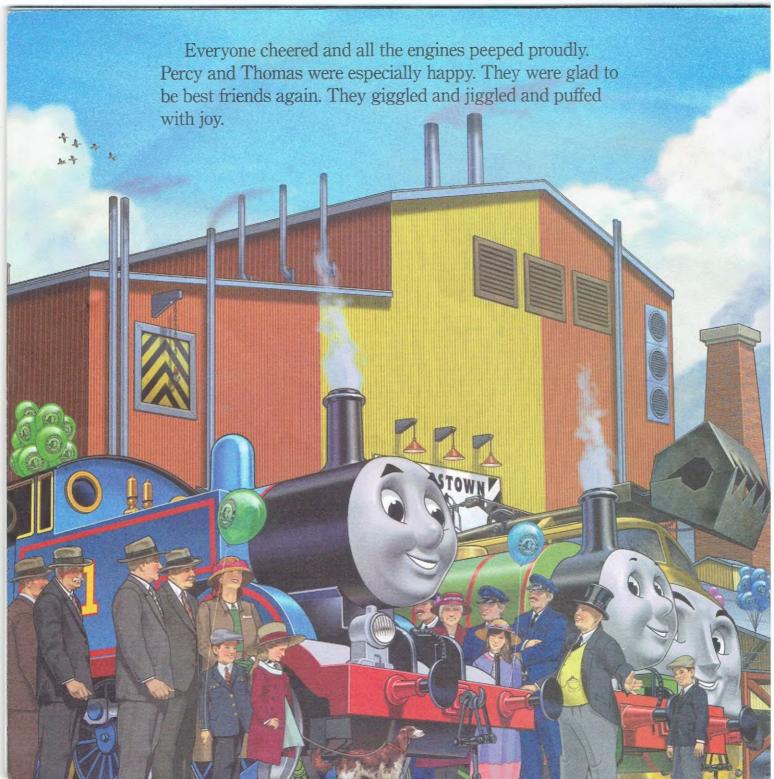


Suddenly, Sir Topham Hatt arrived. He was very cross. "Diesel 10," he said sternly. "You have caused confusion and delay. Because of you, none of my engines has been Really Useful."





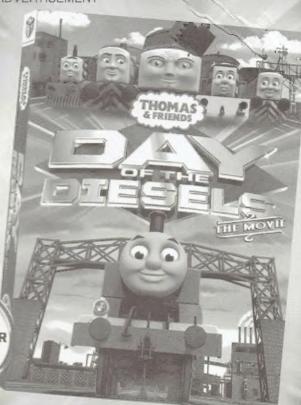




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